

# The Washington Times

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FRANK A. MUNSEY.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1908.

## "With a Rake in His Hand."

Muck-rakers have their champions at last. Within the month two persuasive articles in their behalf have appeared—one from an outside source, John O'Hara Cosgrave; the other from truly an inside source—Utopia Sinclair. For the first, the serious reader will say "Much thanks." The second is not so easy to classify.

Says Mr. Sinclair of the Muck-raker: He believes that he serves a vital function in society; that he is no less than the growing social mind. He is the particular nerve-cell in the burned child which cries out to the child, Do not put your finger into the fire again! He represents the effort of the race to profit by experience, and to do so, he is wiser than repeat indefinitely the blunders which have proved fatal in the past.

The danger of agitations like that which produced the President's caution at the laying of the cornerstone of the House office building does not lie in a purpose to expose wrongdoing. Unpleasant as that task may be, distasteful as it nearly always is, easier as it would be to be "optimistic" and smile vacuously while the grafter sits stolidly in his seat, the man who rouses his fellows to the punishment of their faithless servants does an important and manifest public service.

This was evidently the purpose of Lincoln Steffens, Ray Stannard Baker, Samuel Hopkins Adams, Charles E. Russell, Will Irwin, William Hard, Henry Beach Needham—yes, and David Graham Phillips and Mr. Sinclair. There was much material at their elbows. Hardly any of them went out on a hunt for it. Each, with some special source of information, had the consciousness of a trust betrayed borne in upon him until his search was not for information but for editors sympathetic to expose the wrong. The good they helped to do is proof that the field was only too ready for their labors. As Mr. Cosgrave states it, "they have been the greatest single factor in the awakening of the national conscience."

But such of them as have merited the title "muck-raker" did not stop with condemning the things men did. They condemned the men. They infused a certain kind of relentless attitude into their writings. They gave significance where none belonged and lifted acts—in themselves either not clearly wrong or comparatively unimportant—into offenses of the deepest dye. All this might be done, and often was done, without the misstatement of a single item of information, but rather by means of overemphasis, or wrong emphasis, or simple disproportion, as Antony did it when he iterated and reiterated, "So were they all: honorable men."

In the list of such offenders it is only fair to name Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Phillips. Similarly it is but simple justice to exclude Mr. Adams, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Needham, and to say that if there was offending by Mr. Steffens and Mr. Hard it was not often such as gave the wrongdoer courage to hope for a revulsion of public feeling. Muck-raking in the sense that the public has condemned it is well enough illustrated by a book called "The Metropolis" which has lately appeared from the pen of Mr. Sinclair himself, and the whole danger of the process will be manifest to everyone from this one fact—that this defender of muck-raking designed it as an indiscriminating broadside against the body of our rich who are also socially distinguished.

## Our Pound Loaf Law.

By the law as now enforced a loaf of bread in the District of Columbia must weigh a pound. But that law antedates two complete changes in the form of our local government and may therefore not be binding. It requires also that a loaf shall weigh not more than eighteen ounces and is broken in that respect every day of every year by the sale of loaves which weigh a pound and a half. The local bakers assert that the enforcement of the law in the former respect works a clear hardship on them and their customers alike. Wherefore one of them has entered proceedings to have the courts declare it invalid.

The temptation is to say that the requirement is good and the bakers must be fought every inch of the way. That is the ground taken by the Sealer of Weights and Measures and one of our contemporaries. But there are two sides to this question in spite of the sentiment which attaches to every bread law; and fair play demands that all of us who can shall see both sides.

Suppose flour advances in price so far that the baker can no longer sell a pound of good bread for 5 cents. He must then do one of three things—

1, lower the quality of his product; 2, add a cent to the retail price; 3, lessen the size of the loaf. The first is the most costly of all to the consumer. The third is forbidden by the law, as it is now enforced. The second may be and probably will be a tax on the consumer out of fair proportion to the extra cost to the baker. For if the change is to be represented in selling price alone, as the law now exacts, the public must pay an advance of 20 per cent whether the increase in cost to the baker is 15 per cent, or 10, or 5.

How much better the law could be! Suppose it required what the pure food and drug act requires of food supplies generally—not that a certain quantity and quality must be sold, but that the public shall know what quantity and quality it buys. Then the baker, by cutting off an ounce from each loaf, could increase his selling price by 62.3 per cent instead of 20 per cent and the customer would have full knowledge of the change.

Today the local bakers stand on the threshold of some such step. Flour which sells normally at this season for \$4.04 a barrel now fetches \$6.09. Under the pressure of their experience of 1903 they are reluctant to raise the price. They cannot reduce the size of their loaf. But the change must soon come or the bakeries must close. And when it does come an advance in the price of flour which represents—making allowance for labor, delivery, interest, and incidentals—about 1/2 cent a loaf will have become a full cent by the time the consumer pays.

Another point to remember as we consider this pound-loaf regulation is that the bakers have no monopoly. Anybody can make bread. The moment the price is unjustifiably advanced the householder can safeguard himself. But he cannot so easily protect himself against poor bread, and so it would seem that a law which imposes hard conditions as to quantity and none at all as to quality was a mighty sorry thing to fight for, especially when it makes the public pay in jumps of 20 per cent for advances in cost which may range down to 5.

## Everywhere a Plague.

As a sort of prologue to the international tuberculosis congress to be held here in Washington at the close of this month the Census Bureau has issued a statement in which it appears that in the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and the District of Columbia, together with seventy-six cities in other States—the whole forming what is called the "registration area"—the tuberculosis death rate of 11.2 tops the list. Last year 76,650 people died from some form of tuberculosis in this area. This return is held to justify the opinion expressed by President Roosevelt that tuberculosis probably kills 200,000 in this country every year.

Another remarkable feature of the statement rather weakens the phrase, "The great white plague." The returns from the South are incomplete, but such as they are they prove beyond question that tuberculosis is even more emphatically the black man's plague.

In Maryland the death rate from this particular disease among the whites is 106.5 per 100,000 population; among the negroes it is 230.2, or over 100 per cent more. In the District of Columbia the mortality rate among the white people is 153.6 and among the negroes 448.0. In New Orleans it is 231.6 for the whites and 408.0 for the colored folks. In Kansas City it is 129.3 for the whites and 679.8 for the negroes. And so the grim record runs on, always showing mortality among the negroes to be preponderant in the South. Corresponding figures might be presented as to the Red Man since he has adopted our indoor life.

The fact that the disease is so widespread, and that it has made some of its severest inroads among people so far apart as the negroes of the South and the aborigines of the frozen North, ought to carry home to us the fearfulness of the problem with which the coming congress is to grapple.

The coming month promises to put the frost on a good many campaign pumpkins. Prohibition acts a little suspicious of the boost it got in Maine.

If you're poor at mathematics, just take to election figuring. Nobody will ever find you out.

Mr. Kern would get more support by showing his face in Kansas than in Maryland.

Is it possible the Congressional Cannon is a flareback?

## August

### Circulation Figures

Net Daily Average

The Times.....38,824

The Star.....33,214

The Association of American Advertisers has examined and certified to the circulation of this publication. The detail report of such examination is on file at the New York office of the Association. No other figures of circulation guaranteed.

No. 21.

Secretary.

# YOUNGSTERS BEMOANING "SCHOOL DAYS" APPROACH

Authorities Are Jubilant Over Prospects of Most Successful Opening—Attendance Expected to Show Increase of a Thousand Pupils.

Some fifty thousand school children awoke this morning, gazed fondly across the back lot and sighed. Then their eyes traveled to the bedroom wall, whereupon hung a calendar, with the date, September 21, standing out like a nightmare to the average small boy.

Tomorrow, September 21, is the day set apart by the powers that be for the opening of the public schools. For the past ten days school officials have rubbed it in on young America by chortling gleefully each day that everything was in readiness, things would move off smoothly, and a most successful school year launched.

No such idealistic conditions can exist in the opinion of the youngsters most concerned. He fails to appreciate the tuition of a second tier for a good, dependable baseball bat. He'd rather sell newspapers every afternoon at a dead loss and have the excitement of the thing, than buckle a leather strap around a lot of nauseating books and trudge homeward for the daily grind. It is fearful. If you doubt it, ask any of the fifty thousand who begin the new regime tomorrow, and who each day thereafter will set the family business against the giddy man who plays "School Days."

## All Is Propitious.

But coming tomorrow to the opening of the schools tomorrow will be a propitious one, in the opinion of every official connected with the schools. President Oyster, of the Board of Education, received yesterday afternoon, reports from a large number of principals and supervising principals who informed him that everything was in readiness.

Final meetings were held between the various heads of departments and all details for the opening day perfected. The principals of the various schools have been on duty two days enrolling pupils, closing their labors at 6 o'clock last night. Superintendent Stuart expects 1,000 increase over the enrollment of last year, which will run the attendance nearly 50,000 on tomorrow.

Before the end of the week the first portable schoolhouses used in the District will be placed in position to relieve crowded conditions at certain schools. Under direction of S. E. Kramer, director of intermediate instruction and a representative of the Engineering Department, six of the portable buildings are now being unloaded. The work moving began yesterday.

## Portables En Route.

Seven more portables are en route, and will reach here by October 1. Each one is capable of seating at least forty pupils, is 25 by 35 feet, and has a patented heating and ventilating arrangement. The first six buildings to arrive, the larger sections of which are already upon the school grounds, have been assigned to relieve crowded conditions in the following schools: Ross, Morgan, Chevy Chase, and Jefferson of the white schools, and the Garnet and Ivy City, colored.

The portables will prove of great value at several of the above locations.

# BRYAN AUTO PARTY HELD FOR SPEEDING BY OFFICER

(Continued from First Page.)

pace was so swift that Riverpoint was reached before the dust had cleared away from Apponaug. This may be an exaggeration from the Republican national committee.

Major J. J. Dickinson, of Washington and New York, declared he would walk but he hadn't time to light. He vowed it was worse than being thrown by Colonel Bryan's trick mule. At Riverpoint, Mr. Bryan's closed auto gave out. He and he had to take one of the other machines, a huge, open affair. At 2:35 the party started for Woonsocket via Providence, twenty-eight miles in all, twelve from Riverpoint to Providence. Here again, let the veil of dust be drawn over the speed limit. It might as well have been in retirement, for so far as known it was not used by Providence police got busy with it.

## Bryan With J. W. Mills.

Mr. Bryan was in the car of John W. Mills, of Quinns, or words to that effect. Mr. Mills was of the party, also State Representative John F. O'Connell and J. Walter Mills, son of the owner of the car. Mr. Mills, Sr., is a wealthy manufacturer and a Republican, who attended the meeting at Riverpoint to day, and in the course of the meeting told Mr. Bryan he was going to support him because he believed he was right. Young Mr. Mills has no excessive regard for speed laws, and while Mr. Bryan and his companions were discussing great affairs of state, he scurried along at a brisk pace.

On Elmwood avenue, in Providence, the police have measured out an eighth of a mile for the special purpose of catching autos. When the car Bryan was in reached the "trap" as it is called here, Patrolman Frank Walters signalled Louis A. Hall, motorcycle policeman, and the latter gave chase under the supervision of Sgt. Frank P. Lay. This motorcycle man can run sixty miles an hour when he gets his dander up. He overtook the Bryan car, halted it, and told the occupants they were breaking the speed limit.

"The chief issue of this campaign," Mr. Bryan began and then stopped, seeing his audience was not in the usual tractable mood. He did not try to debate with the officer. The latter took the name of the chief chauffeur and of the members of the party. The car was then allowed to proceed, the officer being told whom he had halted. Quite a crowd collected to see the performance.

## One Auto Hits Car.

The car back of Mr. Bryan's contained Mayor Charles G. Martin, of New Haven, and a party of prominent Democrats. They turned over to another street to evade the police and smashed into a street car, breaking the lights of the auto and otherwise damaging it. No one was injured. Two other autos

owing to increasing attendance, according to Superintendent Stuart. The Benning and Garrison schools will get probably the first two additional portable buildings to arrive. The portables may be transferred, from time to time, to relieve congested conditions at any point in the school system. Each room costs about \$1,500. The plan is an innovation here.

A number of new buildings will be thrown open at the beginning of the present term. These will do much to relieve congestion, school authorities asserting that never before have the prospects been so bright for plenty of room, sanitation, and fire protection.

## Additions Will Help.

Additions at the McKinley, Langdon, Emery, and Petworth schools, and new buildings for the Van Ness and Brightwood Park schools will do much to better the conditions that have made teaching more or less unsatisfactory in the District of Columbia.

The McKinley addition, costing about \$50,000, was formally accepted by the Commissioners yesterday.

Prof. Ernest L. Thurston, formerly head of the department of business practice, Business High School, has begun his duties as supervising principal of the third division, a position to which he has just been named by the board. The authorities are expecting more or less trouble with those who object to vaccination of school children. The cards of admission now being issued to prospective pupils have upon their back certificates of vaccination. If the pupil cannot show that he has been vaccinated, he is amenable to the compulsory vaccination law, and must undergo inoculation before entering school, or immediately thereafter. A number of letters have been received by Superintendent Stuart, indicating that some parents propose to fight the edict and may appeal the matter to the courts. The school authorities, however, are bound by the health laws, and have no discretion.

Speaking of prospects in general for the opening day, President Oyster said last night:

## Reports Encouraging.

"Conditions are better than ever before. I have received nothing but the most encouraging reports from every one. The repairs on the railroads and I believe practically every building is comparatively safe, or as near so as the appropriation at hand will permit. The work of repairs and fire protection is to continue right along until there can be no complaint. On the whole, we are gratulating ourselves upon the prospect for tomorrow and consider them better than ever before in the history of the District schools."

The ways and means committee of the board held another meeting yesterday afternoon to consider the subject of estimates for the next fiscal year. The estimates will be ready probably by the end of the week, after which time a special meeting of the board may be called to act upon them, prior to their transmission to the Commissioners. The estimates will include the estimates until the automatic sliding scale for the advance of teachers' salaries goes into effect Monday, after which the average monthly payroll may be estimated.

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# TAFT DISPOSES OF PHILIPPINES TO BRITAIN

Declares Bryan's Views Have "Cowardly" Action as Their Object.

## WARMLY GREETED BY LARGE CROWD

Speaks in Cincinnati, Especially for Delegation From Norwood, a Suburb of the City.

By JAMES HAY, Jr.

CINCINNATI, Sept. 19.—That Bryan's views regarding the Philippines are impractical and have as their object "cowardly" action on the part of this country, was the keynote of a speech delivered here tonight by William Howard Taft, explaining his attitude and the policy of his party toward the islands.

Taft spoke in the assembly hall of the Sinton Hotel to a delegation of 1,600 people from Norwood, an industrial town on the outskirts of Cincinnati. He was frequently interrupted by applause, and at the conclusion of his speech he was given a tremendous ovation.

After reviewing all that this country has done for the islands in the way of education, improvement of commerce and business, and sanitary care, Taft said: "The greatest need in the material development of the islands is the construction of railroads. In 1905, Congress passed a law enabling us to guarantee the interest on the bonds of any new railway to the extent of 4 per cent for thirty years, the amounts paid to be a second lien on the railroad payable after thirty years. By this means, we have secured the construction of 300 miles of railroad in each of the three islands of Negros, Cebu, and Panay. In Luzon, we secured the construction of 400 miles of additional railway without any guarantee."

## Record in Islands.

"This is the part of my record in the Philippines to which I suppose Mr. Bryan means to call my attention. He speaks of the Benguet railroad franchise. There is no Benguet railroad. I wish there were. I presume he refers to the Manila and Baguio railroad franchise. It was fully described in an elaborate report I made to Congress in 1906. It was approved by the President and the Cabinet after full consideration. Mr. Bryan is the first person so far as I know to question its wisdom or propriety."

"In an interview I said that even those in the islands in favor of immediate independence prefer Republican victory to Mr. Bryan's promises. Mr. Bryan now responds with a cable from Alberto Barretto denying this on behalf of certain authorities in the Independent party."

"I relied for my statement on a conversation I had last month with Senator Quezon, who is the leader of the Independistas in the national assembly, in which he told me that although the Independistas liked Mr. Bryan's platform they preferred my election as a friend of the Filipino to Mr. Bryan's promises. This statement Senator Quezon subsequently repeated in a published interview. There is evidently a difference of opinion among the Independistas."

## A Cowardly Policy.

"In my judgment, it would be a cowardly policy for us to give up our work in the Philippines when so much remains to be done in order to secure the permanent effect of our policy. By making free trade between the islands and the United States, as recommended by the Republican platform, we shall bring advantage to both countries, and we shall see a prosperity in the islands that will make their trade worth having."

"I do not advocate this policy merely to benefit the United States. I am more interested in it really for the benefit of the Philippines, because the United States is such a prosperous country that it can afford to go along without additional Philippine trade. Nevertheless, the result of our altruistic policy, the result of our dealing with the Philippines for the benefit of the Philippines only, in the end will turn out to be the best possible course for the betterment of our American trade with the islands."

"Mr. Bryan says that we have adopted a policy in the Philippines, that he has desired to give the Philippines independence, and that we propose to give them independence. Let us examine the facts in respect to this statement of Mr. Bryan and see whether he fairly states the whole truth."

## Mr. Bryan's Method.

"Mr. Bryan's method of giving them independence was to release them at once, immediately, from the treaty of Paris, and let them make the best way they could through bloody faction and chaos to decent self-government. And his further method was to interfere as much as possible, by agitation in this country and vehement denunciation of our policy, with the efforts which we were making to bring tranquility and peace to the islands."

"We always have contended that the immediate independence which Mr. Bryan wishes to give the Philippines would result in the utmost misery to the inhabitants of the islands. We thought that the best method of procedure was to take over the islands, give them a good government, to educate the ignorant, to practice the people in self-government until they should be fit to take over the government themselves, and then, if they desired it, to turn it over to them."

"We felt, and still feel, that it would be unwise definitely to promise independence to the Philippines, for the reason that it encourages constant agitation and a construction of the promise to mean independence in the near future, whereas there is the strongest probability that the people of the islands will not be fit for complete self-government under two generations."

## Must Be Taught.

"How can liberty be given to a people so dense in ignorance that they don't understand what liberty is. They must be taught. Our real yards are not the really educated wealthy people of the Philippines, numbering but 5 or 10 per cent of the population; they are the ignorant 90 per cent, and we shall not discharge our duty to them until we can be sure that the government which is to be established over them will secure to them their rights, and not maintain them in a permanent state of darkest ignorance."

# CORRESPONDENT "SCOOPED;" FAULT OF CABLE OPERATOR

Interest in Flights of Orville Wright Is Keen Abroad, and European Papers Spare No Expense for Early News.

THE immense amount of the interest taken in the flights of Orville Wright by the nations of Europe has made the continental newspapers eager for the first intelligence of those record-breaking trips, and has caused the correspondents at Fort Myer no end of trouble.

Recently C. H. Claudy, who is covering the flights for the papers conducted by James Gordon Bennett—and for others, too—is said to have received a dispatch from the commodore, then in Paris, in which Mr. Bennett wanted to know why in the time of a well-advertised place, he couldn't get his dispatches over to Paris as soon as the Daily Mail. The Daily Mail, it seems, had beaten the Paris Herald by an hour or two.

So they looked into the matter, the commodore being reputed a choleric person and not to having his own way. This is what they found. The Washington correspondent in signing the dispatch "Claudy" had confused the cable operator, who made it "cloudy," in which shape it was sent to Paris.

The Paris operator has instructions not to call it a complete dispatch until he gets a signature, so he started out on a new sentence with the word "cloudy," thinking he was about to take a bit of descriptive literature about the American weather. He hasn't gotten the signature yet, but the next time the Washington correspondent sends a dispatch, so the experts have agreed, he must sign "thirty," which all telegraph operators understand means sufficiency.

## Earning Their \$7,500.

When the Speaker raps the gavel in the House of Nineteen-ten.

When the Senate comes to order and the writers grab the pen.

The tariff's dead and buried well and the trusts are on the go.

Don't you think our little Congressman MUST find it mighty slow?

When octopoli are corrailed, when the mal-factors' jailed,

When the corporation's branded; interest's scalp has fallen.

To arouse a waning spirit in the politician's breast.

Don't you reckon that our Congressman WILL take a little rest?

When the railroad's grip is broken quite, and union labor's calm,

When the 'Nias club is empty and the rich men sing a psalm.

To a world that's wisely curious; where everything is right,

COULD we have a Congress session where on speech there is a blight?

When the fightin' program's settled, when the battleships are done,

When woman Suffrage's just the thing, When the Demon's on the run.

To another better country where all persons love to drink,

Don't you feel that Congress SHOULD forget and take it out in think?

But this is a sad and weary tale with n'er an end in sight.

If you stop to cast some fingers up and count what Congress "might."

There is no name on talking long and there really cannot be.

While Uncle Samuel stands the game and right of speech is free.

## Mails Persistent.

The persistence of the Postoffice Department in chasing a man about the United States to hand him a letter, all for the sum of 2 cents, is well illustrated in the case of a missive which reached W. C. Kimball, of 1749 Willard street, this week.

The letter was mailed in New York to